

## Sanibel Island Proves Shell Collectors' Heaven

By HAL BOYLE  
SANIBEL ISLAND, March 25 (P)—A 14-mile stretch of dazzling white beach on this small island off Florida's west coast is the mecca of American shell collectors.

And they come here by the hundreds each year—kids, retired millionaires, fat dignified old ladies, army generals and tinned tourists.

But there is no rank or distinction among shell collectors. Like so many seagulls or pelicans they skim along the beach, looking for choice tidbits of shell thrown up by the sea.

Because it lies athwart the northward push of the Gulf of Mexico, Sanibel is one of the three best shell beaches in the world. Each receding tide leaves literally tons of shell-dwelling marine life stranded on the sands.

**Commercial Harvest**  
Before dawn commercial shell men go out to harvest the overnight crop. They get \$2.25 a bushel for the shells, sold in dime stores and gift shops as ash trays and souvenirs.

The hobbyists look offended if you ask what the shells are worth, but more than one elderly lady has gone into an island gift shop and furtively forked over \$5 to \$15 for a pretty spotted junonia shell to match the one her neighbor found on the beach.

Rarest shell is the "glory of the sea," worth \$1000 up.

Since many shells contain living organisms, they must first be boiled, then cleaned with muriatic acid to remove any lime deposits. An oil rub brings out the sea-fresh colors.

Winter residents seeking rarities among the 360 types of shell washed up here race each other to the beach after early breakfasts. Eyes down intent on their search, dowagers who have known each other for a quarter of a century pass without speaking. Some wade out into the retreating surf to gather a prize.

A newcomer holds up what seems to him a pretty shell.

"Hmmp — cardium robus-

um," sniffs a pitying oldtimer. That's her way of saying the "heart shell" is too common to bother with. Like most of the faithful she lapses into Latin when she speaks of shell.

**American Names**  
But they have nice American names too—like Scotch bonnet, paper shell, angel wings and lady's ear.

Once a year the islanders and winter residents put on a three-day shell exhibit. Collectors from almost every state in the Union attend.

Joining the beachcombers during a recent morning shell hunt was Lieut. Gen. A. C. Wedemeyer, former American army commander in the China theater.

"It's fascinating," he said. Visitors who like the isolated island's simple charm hope it will remain out of the main stream of tourist traffic.

Sanibel now has a permanent population of only 77—mostly guides, fishermen and lighthouse keepers.

The chief source of revenue is the colony of elderly winter residents who come here year after year.

"Many people here are retired—and all are tired," smiled Louis Webb, former Louisville, Ky., telephone executive who serves as unofficial mayor.

"We have no local taxes, no doctors, no firemen, no law enforcement officers, and no crime—at least none that we know about."

Asked if he collected shells, Webb said with marked emphasis: "I do not, I fish."

**EASY NIGHT**  
FITCHBURG, Mass., March 25 (P)—Pranksters filched a sign from a nearby parking lot and placed it on the front steps of the police headquarters.

The sign read: "Closed 5:30 p. m. to 9:30 a. m. No Trespassing."

Police said it worked fine, "not even a drunk disturbed the premises."

## Store Opens In Merrill

MERRILL, March 25—The grand opening of the Merrill Clothing company, read-to-wear store operated by D. C. King and L. H. Holden, both of Merrill, on Saturday drew a large number of shoppers in spite of the rain.

The proprietors, who also own the Merrill Billiards, are offering a complete line of men's clothing and items for both men and women. A full line of boy's clothing will be added.

The new business opened in the building formerly occupied by the second hand store, next door to Castleman's Drug. A complete remodeling and redecorating program was finished prior to the opening.

Holden and King have been in Merrill about two years.

Pat McDonough will manage the business which will be open from 8 a. m. until 6 p. m. Monday through Friday and until 9 p. m. Saturdays.

Hans Norland Auto Insurance, 123 N. 6th St.

## Boy Scout News

**Troop 33**  
Boy Scout Troop 33 of Malin went to Lost River Sunday morning and stayed until about 5:30 p. m. They cooked dinner and supper up there.

Those on the trip included George Rajnus, Frank Cacka, Rodney Ottoman, Ted Nisely, Gene Evons, Paul Micka, Robert Micka, Kenneth Hershfeld, Eddie McAuliffe, Bob Unruh, Clark Watson and Orval Dixon. They were led by Scoutmaster John Hershfeld.

Many activities took place. The Moose patrol went on a hike while the Modoc patrol fished and rowed in the boat.

Some second class fire building took place. The boys who passed

it were Robert Micka, Eddie McAuliffe, Billy Pitts and Rodney Ottoman.

**BUM DEAL**  
ALBANY, N. Y., March 25 (P)—Even tramps are costing the state more money these days.

Governor Dewey today approved a bill increasing the state's allowance for maintenance of tramps in jails from 60 cents to \$1 a day.

## Students Enter Scholarship Race

SALEM, March 25 (P)—More than 100 Oregon high school students have entered the competition for the two \$500 State Federation of Labor college scholarships, with the closing date for applications 10 days away, Miss May Darling, Portland, chairman of the federation's executive committee, Portland, said here today.

The scholarships, which may be used at any college or university, will be given on the basis of a competitive examination to be given April 16. The

examination will cover the history, structure and functions of the American labor movement.

Porpoises, dolphins and whales are, according to science, land animals that have given up their original habitat for the ocean.

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## SALES CALENDAR NO. 17 -- WEEK BEGINNING MON., MAR. 24, 1947

FOR VETERANS AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF PURCHASERS, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED		Write Portland Regional Office for:		
DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL	INVENTORY IN DOLLARS	SALE ENDS	HOW TO BUY	SPECIAL OFFERING BY NUMBER ONLY
Miscellaneous Plumbing & Heating	\$ 31,577.11	Mar. 30	Fixed Price	PDO-21-798
Motors, D.C.; Switchboards; Misc. Electrical Items	52,810.63	Mar. 31	Sealed Bid	PDO-61-790
Pumps; Swainers	149,985.99	Mar. 31	Sealed Bid	PDO-62-791
Lectromelt Furnace; Hydroblast Two-Gun Cleaning System	228,230.45	Mar. 31	Sealed Bid	PDO-68-792
Blankets; Comforters; Wearing Apparel	146,171.79	Mar. 31	Fixed Price	PDO-34-795
Misc. Furniture; Office Machines; Engineering Eqp.	31,457.03	Mar. 31	Fixed Price	PDO-31-794
Ventilating Fans	27,437.80	Apr. 1	Sealed Bid	PDO-61-797
Miscellaneous Gas Cutting Equipment and Shop Mule	8,447.79	Apr. 1	Fixed Price	PDO-64-798
Industrial and Office Machinery	9,573.81	Apr. 1	Sealed Bid	PDO-31-800
Salt Water Soap	9,552.00	Apr. 1	Sealed Bid	PDO-15-802
Dough Mixing Equipment	37,380.00	Apr. 1	Fixed Price	PDO-31-799
Motors and Miscellaneous Electrical Equipment	65,030.65	Apr. 2	Sealed Bid	PDO-61-794
Flat Cars; Steam Locomotive	5,775.00	Apr. 2	Sealed Bid	PDO-62-803
Industrial, Office Furniture; Office Machines	21,840.83	Apr. 2	Fixed Price	PDO-31-807
Cutting and Machine Tools	91,391.87	Apr. 2	Sealed Bid	PDO-83-782
Air Compressors	7,265.00	Apr. 2	Fixed Price	PDO-63-814
Cutting Tools and Abrasives	52,486.10	Apr. 3	Sealed Bid	PDO-82-804
Gas Masks	798,198.45	Apr. 3	Sealed Bid	PDO-27-809
Hand Tools	54,578.45	Apr. 7	Fixed Price	PDO-17-808
Tanks	67,244.33	Apr. 7	Fixed Price	PDO-07-808
Cargo Nets	87,490.50	Apr. 7	Sealed Bid	PDO-15-810
Welding Machines; Welding Rod	21,094.00	Apr. 7	Sealed Bid	PDO-84-811
Valves and Pipe Fittings	890,198.33	Apr. 8	Sealed Bid	PDO-95-812
Valves and Fittings	44,386.67	Apr. 8	Fixed Price	PDO-95-812
Stop Watches	9,357.50	Apr. 8	Fixed Price	PDO-29-832
Wire Rope	107,365.74	Apr. 9	Fixed Price	PDO-95-820
Buildings	8,345.12	Apr. 9	Fixed Price	PDO-72-888
Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Metals	40,550.65	Apr. 10	Sealed Bid	PDO-93-822
M-8 Bomb Trailers	82,305.00	Apr. 10	Fixed Price	PDO-07-824
NATIONAL LISTING: Aircraft		Continuous	Fixed Price	04-788

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TO WAR ASSETS ADMINISTRATION  
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<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-21-793	<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-64-811
<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-31-794	<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-83-812
<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-64-795	<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-83-814
<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-61-796	<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-84-818
<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-61-797	<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-95-820
<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-64-798	<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-93-822
<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-31-799	<input type="checkbox"/> PDO-07-824
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What type of purchaser are you?  
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## ANNOUNCEMENT!

Only discharge papers are needed to buy at future sales to veterans of SET-ASIDE ITEMS—certification no longer will be necessary for those items which include motor vehicles, office furniture, medical, dental, and surgical equipment.

- Watch the newspapers for information as to when and where these items are available—as all items on this SET-ASIDE LIST will be available ONLY IN LIMITED QUANTITIES.
- Further information may be obtained from Veterans Division at the address below, or Selective Service Boards, and various posts of Veterans organizations throughout the state.
- This change applies ONLY TO SET-ASIDE ITEMS. Veteran's certification will still be required for all other surplus materials for business, agricultural, or professional uses, or as a condition of employment.

Visit War Assets Customer Service Sales Center at Swan Island and inspect samples of surplus materials for sale

Prospective buyers are asked to confirm dates and commodities as they are subject to change.

For further information about any of these offerings contact . . .

**War Assets Administration**  
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\* Cousin Quincy is a wiser man today. He's taught his daughter that harder-working modern motors need RPM Motor Oil's added compounds even more than the cars he used to drive. These compounds not only end carbon troubles and hot spot wear, they eliminate corrosion, rust and foaming—prevent car dangers "just plain oil" can't stop.

"RPM" keeps cars young

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